

L. DI BIASI ASSOCIATES

Presentation

To

Letters of Commitment, Endorsement &
Foreign Support

AO Simplification Workshop

Dallas, Texas

February 28 / 29, 2008

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TYPES OF SUPPORT:

- **Institutional Sponsored** – Private Industry or University using their own funding (U. of Bern, MPI)
- **National Sponsored** – Private Industry or University using National Agency funding (MSSL from STFC, U of Leicester from UK ATC, ASI directly)
- **International** – Private Industry or University using International funding (ESA or JAXA)

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SCOPE OF SUPPORT:

- **Hardware** – Instruments
- **Software** – Algorithms, Analysis of data
- **Facilities** – Detector or Instrument Calibration, Ground Systems, Launch Vehicles
- **Materials** – Parts. Processes, Spares
- **Time** – Labor hours

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Letters of Commitment:

- **Fairly easy from Private industry or Universities when using their own funds for time and/or materials and facilities**
- **More difficult from National agencies, especially when budget cycles do not align with AO submittals. A letter of interest in “participating if selected” is possible.**
- **Very difficult for outyear commitments**

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What does NASA require versus what can NASA live with in STEP 1? STEP 2?

Define acceptable phrases:

- We will commit to provide ---**
- We will seek funding for ---**
- We will submit a request for ---**
- If selected for a Phase A we will pursue ---**
- If selected for flight we will ---**
- ???**

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ISSUES:

- **A lot of time is spent on getting the required letters**
- **Since the PI must hold reserves or plan descopes to cover contributions, what do the letters mean? The agreements are not binding.**
- **Should LOC only be required for CSR submittals?**
- **Should the level of foreign participation be reduced to lower the risk?**

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SUGGESTION 1:

- **For Step 1, PI provides a letter that discussions relating to contributions have been held and verbal agreements have been reached with all personnel and institutions to provide the services or hardware identified in the proposal.**
- **For Step 2 provide the specific letters.**

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SUGGESTION 2:

- **For Step 1, PI provides a letter that discussions relating to foreign participation have been held and verbal agreements have been reached with all personnel and institutions to provide the services or hardware identified in the proposal.**
- **For Step 2 provide the specific letters.**

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SUGGESTION 3:

- **For Step 1, PI provides a letter from his/her home institution that the stated commitments have been independently verified.**

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SUGGESTION 4:

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SUGGESTION 5:

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